

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011**

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The NYC Veteran's Advisory Board is established by local law# 10. The Board is made up of 9 Veterans. Five are appointed by the Mayor & 4 are appointed by the City Council. The Board met 4 times in 2011.

The March 3, 2011 meeting of the VAB concentrated on:

- A review of the 2010 VAB Annual Report to NYCC
- Review Queens VFW goals presented by VAB Member Marvin Jeffcoat
- Review Business & job opportunities for Veterans through JP Morgan Chase Companies I.E. The Reduced Service members Civil Relief Act Pricing; Military Modification Program; Home ownership Assistance; Jobs; Education & training
- Update the VAB on the progress of Veteran Court operations
- Representation at the March 26, 2010 Vietnam Veteran Recognition Day at 55 Water St.
- Discussion on American Legion National Commander Candidate Fang Wong, Kimlau American Legion Post.
- VAB invitation by Co Chairman Lee Covino to participate in the Staten Island St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- Review NYCC report on Housing Opportunities for NYC Veterans posted by NYCC Speaker Quinn
- NYCC Intro 387 Bill, introduced by Council Member Vincent J. Gentile, discussion and support
- Notification of the Dignity Vietnam Wall coming to "Intrepid" November 7, '11
- Notification of 5th Annual Military Appreciation Day at Richmond County Bank Ballpark (Staten Island Yankees) July 24, '11
- Distribute Ex. Summary of Public Health Solutions 9/11 report on MOVA.
- Discuss the Veterans Preference Bill that was passed by the NYS Legislature but vetoed by Governor Paterson.

The April 26, 2011 Meeting of VAB concentrated on:

- Meet & Greet with NYCC Chairman of the Veterans Committee Councilman Mathieu Eugene
- Review of the Veteran Hall Community meeting held by MOVA 3/10/11
- Review the NYC Veterans Service Information Guide
- Review of Public Health Solutions Ex. Summary
- Veteran's Court for Queens
- St. Albans VA Hospital update
- Discuss Omega Institute retreat for Veterans May 18 to 20
- MOVA discussion of recruiting a minimum of 2 VSO Service Providers to process claims at Veteran's Memorial Hall
- MOVA to research Veteran exam & hiring preference policy
- Veteran Business Enterprise Bill to grant war time and disabled veterans preference in procurement contract award discussed at length. This bill was vetoed by Governor Paterson after being passed by the NYS Legislature.
- Fleet Week 2011

The July 20, 2011 Meeting of VAB concentrated on:

- Expanding the Veterans Resource Guide, Briana Collins, Sr. Advisor and Ex. Director- NYC Commission on Women's Issues led the discussion on women's issues and expanding the on-line Veteran's Resource Guide.
- NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli Veteran loan program
- Veteran Service Officer; location & funding
- Veterans Hospital at St. Albans
- USCG Day 8/4/11
- HUD, VA providing permanent housing & support to homeless Veterans
- VAB participation in the Moving Wall visit to "Intrepid" over Veteran's Day

The October 6, 2011 meeting concentrated on:

- Veteran burial issues presented by the Chairman of Black Vets for Social Justice Inc. Mr. Herbert Sweat. Information was distributed outlining the problems of Veteran burials at Evergreen Cemetery originating from Rikers Island. Letters and photographs were provided. VAB will look into these issues.
- The online resources linked to MOVA website were discussed at length
- Determined that there would be a summit at MOVA to discuss Veteran housing issues in NYC
- Veterans Day Parade discussion of air time and spokespersons
- Expansion of membership in VAB discussed